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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is pleased to present the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Report for the reporting year 2007. DNREC publishes this report as part of our efforts to inform citizens about environmental issues in their communities. This is the 21st year of TRI data collection. The program has proven to be successful as a non-regulatory way to encourage pollution prevention and reductions of toxic chemical releases. It is no surprise that when properly motivated and encouraged to innovate, Delaware companies have demonstrated continued progress in increasing efficiency and reducing their releases of toxic chemicals.

The 2007 data summarized in this report are encouraging. The Delaware City (Premcor Oil) Refinery and the Georgetown Perdue facilities reported significant reductions in nitrate compounds released to water. These facilities reflect a trend towards greater accuracy and decreased releases. Compared to 2006 reported releases, Delaware's 2007 total on-site TRI releases declined by four percent. Reported releases to water and land were down 17% and 48%, respectively. Reported releases to air, however, were up 9%, which was caused primarily by the increased production at the power plants, and the resulting increase in releases of acid gases. The long term trend, since 1998, shows a decrease of more than ten percent. Also, the trend for on-site releases of carcinogenic compounds continues downward with the total amount of on-site releases for all carcinogens falling by 150,000 pounds, 39 percent less than reported for 2006, and by 625,000 pounds, or 73 percent less than for 1998. In the future, emissions from power plants will also be significantly reduced when compliance with our multi-pollutant regulations is achieved.

This TRI report shows progress in two important areas: increased accuracy and decreased emissions across a broad front. Instead of relying on estimates, Delaware's TRI facilities increasingly use results from directly monitored data. For 2006, the use of such direct data revealed higher than estimated nitrate compound releases from the Premcor refinery. For 2007, Premcor further increased their water sampling to get better data over time, and the facility-reported discharge of nitrate compounds to the Delaware River decreased by 424,000 pounds. At Evraz Claymont Steel, although other methods were used to estimate releases, reported releases of mercury to air decreased by 50 pounds, or 16 percent, for 2007.

Despite concerns by states and others, the TRI program was modified by a Federal rule allowing more facilities to report on the TRI short Form A, beginning in the 2006 reporting year. This "short form" provides only general information and does not report any quantitative amounts. Through their initiatives and outreach efforts of DNREC's TRI program, Delaware companies have trended away from use of this "short form" and continue to provide detailed TRI data to the public.

We publish two TRI documents annually: This more technical *TRI Data Detail Report* and the shorter *Data Summary Report*, a more compact, less technical report. These reports and reports for recent years are available at DNREC offices and also through the public information link at http://www.serc.delaware.gov/epcra.shtml. Specific facility data from 1995-2007 are also available at the above web site, and the *Other Sources of Information* section of this report provides details about the many other DNREC and EPA Internet sites devoted to community right-to-know.

I urge you to take advantage of the information in this report to learn about the management of chemicals in your community. I also encourage our industrial citizens to continue to reduce releases below today's levels and focus on providing a safer and more healthful environment for our future.

Sincerely,

John A. Hughes, Secretary,

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Hugher